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The **Nature***Kenya* Newsletter

May 2000

WHAT'S NEW!

THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP) OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY(CBD)

15 - 26 May 2000 , UNEP, Gigiri

When the nations of the world met at the 'Earth Summit', the UN Conference on Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, they signed a number of international agreements. The most important and controversial was the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Objectives of the Convention

Conservation of biological diversity

The sustainable use of its components

The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of utilisation of genetic resources

These nations who have signed **and ratified** the CBD are Parties to the Convention. Their meetings are called Conference of Parties (COP). COPs have been held in the Bahamas (1994), Indonesia (1995), Argentina (1996) and the Slovak Republic (1998). The meetings draw up new strategies for the way forward and look at the progress in implementation.

A CBD secretariat was set up and operates to facilitate a number of committees, which include: *the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Operations of the Convention, the Global Environment Facility (GEF)* and Working Groups – set up as and when needed.

Just before the conference, the environmental NGOs and Governments hold informal preliminary discussions called Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF). In this year's GBF meeting three issues will be discussed:

i) Linkages between Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation.
ii) Instruments for Access to and Benefit-sharing from Genetic Resources.
iii) Agricultural Biodiversity and Sustainable Livelihoods: The Case of Dry Land Ecosystems.

This year's GBF will be held from 12 – 14 May also in Nairobi.

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TALKS & VIDEOS

THE AMAZON

TALK BY DINO MARTINS
Anthropologist & Artist

The Amazon basin holds one of earth's greatest assests,the largest area of connected rainforest.

Evolution has been occuring at "full speed" in these forests for millenia,the constant warmth and moisture providing the perfect conditions for plant growth. Rainforest, though semingly uniform, actually consists of many micro-habitats, each with distinctive flora and fauna.

This talk will illustrate the great challenge that lies in the balancing of human needs, human rights and environmental conservation in the region.

painted toucan

Monday 8 May '00, 5:30 p.m.
at the National Museums of Kenya,
Louis Leakey M. Hall . Transport to town available.

East Africa Natural History Society

Annual General Meeting

Monday 12 June '00
at the Louis Leakey M. Hall
Video to be screened"Alien Empire"
Refreshments will be served
Town drop off will be available
Look up details on page 2

Editor, **Catherine Ngarachu**
Illustrations, **Dino Martins**

CBD continued from front page

The Role of BirdLife International

The Important Bird Areas Programme in Africa is currently benefiting from GEF funding through the *African NGO – Government Partnerships for Sustainable Biodiversity Action Project* implemented by BirdLife Partners in 10 African countries of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda.

The BirdLife International secretariat will make an overall presentation of the GEF funded project activities in these countries.

Role of Nature Kenya

With its focus on species, sites and habitats, Nature Kenya and BirdLife International will have a lot to offer. The Important Bird Areas(IBA) programme will be used to showcase Nature Kenya's global conservation. Specific activities include: *10,000 postcards for delegates, lunch time event on 23 May 2000 at the UN grounds, lectures and poster displays.* Nature Kenya is represented in various NGO and government committees in the preparation for COP 5.

Find your way to this global meeting and support Nature Kenya in its activities. At the CITES meeting in April day visitors were allowed in without charge. We expect it will be the same at the CBD.

RESEARCH AWARDS

Grant opportunities in Conservation Biology through the Smithsonian Envlronmental Research Center

THE JAMES LYNCH CONSERVATION BIOLOGY FUND

Set up in honour of the late James Lynch, well-known Smithsonian Ornithologist, the James Lynch Conservation Biology Fund hopes to support an aspiring researcher examining conservation issues in Central America or East Africa, particularly (but not exclusively) native graduate students.

Award - September 2000

The $5000 award is competitive, based on the relevance and feasibility of the proposed work. Applicants must submit a proposal and budget (no more than 8 pages total), resume, and 2 letters of recommendation to the following address: *The James Lynch Conservation Biology Fund, c/o Linda McCann, Smithsonian Environmental Reseorch Center, Box 28, Edgewater, Maryland 21037, USA.*

The deadline for submitting for the September 1, 2000 award is **June 15.** Applicants will be notified of their status by July 15.

East Africa Natural History Society

Annual General Meeting

Main Agenda Items

Indemnity clause to be added to the constitution

At the moment, Executive Committee members are liable to pay damages for claims against the Society. This clause allows the Society to indemnify them.

Changes to the corporate membership categories

It is proposed to amend the category to make it more attractive to the corporate sector.

No increase in subscription fees!

The only way we can keep these rates at the present level is by spreading the cost of maintaining membership through recruiting more members.

So sign up all your friends as members, if you need brochures and subscription forms or you need someone to give a talk about the organisation, call us at the office!

Hon. Treasurer Needed

Enthusiastic, hardworking volunteers needed! *Do you know anyone appropriate for this post or any other on the Executive Committee?*

Nomination forms enclosed

Bird Hotline

Barn Owl
Natianal Museums of Kenya/ Mar
Steven Wamiti

African Cuckoo Hawk
Bendera Lane, Spring Valley/ Mar
Mike McCartney

Isabeline Shrike, Long-toed Plover
Sukari Ranch/ Mar
Peter Kamau

52 Open-billed Storks feeding at Lake Nimbodze, Zanzibar Red Bishop at L. Koromojo
Zanzibar/ Mar
Chris Hill & David Hill

Common Rock Thrush, Common Redstart, Sharpe's Longclaw
Kinangop/ Mar
Beata Owino

Eurasian Hobby, Eurasian Cuckoo
Kentan College, Kileleshwa/ Apr
Lesser Grey Shrike, Red-backed Shrike, Red-tailed Shrike
Proposed Biodiversity Park, Carnivore/ Apr
Fleur Ng'weno

Bird Sit

Sunday 7 May

A Bird Sit is a team effort in which the objective is to identify as many birds species as can be seen or heard for any amount of time within 12 hours. The difference lies in the limitation of the area from which you will be allowed to observe. All counting must be conducted within a circle with a diameter of no more than 17ft/ 5.2 m whose centre is a single designated point.

Organise your own teams, find a suitable spot, enjoy your birdwatch and send your results including the species, site and team members details to the Nature Kenya office. Checklists are available from the office.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

POT LUCK OUTINGS

Bird-watching outings held on every third Sunday of the month, *i.e.* **21 May**. Bring a picnic lunch, binoculars, field guides, etc. and meet at 9:00 am at the National Museum car park. Those attending decide on the venue - hence "Pot Luck".

TREE WALK

Arboretum guided Tree Walks on the last Monday of every month i.e. **29 May from 9:30 a.m.** Meet at the FONA offices beside the Girl Guides HQ.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Kshs 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.

ARABUKO SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **6 May, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person.

DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any for loss, injury, death or damage to property.

MAY DIARY

Wed 3	Birdwalk
Sat 6	A-S Forest Walk
Sun 7	Big Bird Sit
Mon 8	Talk on Amazon
Wed 10/17	Birdwalk
Sun 21	Pot Luck
Wed 24	Birdwalk
Sat 27	Dudu Outing
Mon 29	Tree Walk

ACTIVITIES

EXCURSIONS

DUDU OUTING

Saturday 27 May,
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m

Led by staff from the Entomology Department of the Museum, the group will be looking at grasshoppers at Oloolua Forest & Butterflies at the Africa Butterfly Research Institute.

Meet at the Museum car park at 7:45 for 8:00 a.m. departure. Bring water, hiking shoes, torch and a snack.

Cost: 250/- per person
Cost of transport in Nature Kenya Landrover: 200/- per person
Please book by Friday 19 May

COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Friends of Kinangop Plateau (FoKP) carry out activities to conserve the globally threatened Sharpe's Longclaw in unique unprotected highland grasslands. They benefited from an RSPB grant which has now ended. In order to continue their work they require your support. This can be cash donations or educational materials.

GOOD NEWS

David Kuria of Kijabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO), a Site Support Group at Kikuyu Escarpment IBA flew to UK to receive a UK£ 5000 as BP Conservation award. This will enhance KENVO activities in protecting Gatamaiyu Forest.

Kakamega Environmental Education Programme (KEEP) and Kakamega Biodiversity Conservation and Tour Guide Operators (KABICOTOA) received US$ 80,000 grant for environmental education and eco-tourism development. Funded by the UNDP Small Grants Programme, UNDP Country office fund and the US Embassy.

Paul Matiku
Conservation Promotion Officer,
Nature Kenya

SUCCULENTA

FRIDAY 29 APRIL 8.30 a.m. Field trip to Soysambu

This is just beyond Gilgil on the Nakuru road. Meeting at the ABC shopping centre, Waiyaki Way, at the Kengeles end, to double up with transport. For those who wish to join us there, expected arrival time at the main gate to Soyambu is around 10.15 a.m. Please bring hats, walking shoes, water and a picnic lunch. Any queries to Maria Dodds (Tel. 882828).

SATURDAY 3 JUNE. 10 a.m. Annual General Meeting

It will be held at the home of Gilfrid and Patricia Powys in Riverside Lane, which is off Riverside Drive. It is the last house on the left hand side.

NOTICES

NatureKenya

Career Opportunity

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Society seeks to recruit an Executive Officer who will have overall responsibility for the Society's office and various projects, and will work closely with elected officers to develop the Society's programmes.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Be responsible to the Management Sub-committee, reporting through the Chairman

Supervise and co-ordinate the work of other staff and the general day-to-day running of the office

As requested, advise the Management Sub-committee on staff duties, deployment, leave and office regulations

Arrange for appropriate representation of the Society in meetings, and represent the Society where necessary

Working closely with the Office Manager (OM), co-ordinate society functions and outings

Take a lead role in public relations, fund-raising and networking

Liaise with the sub-committees and help to co-ordinate their activities

Take overall responsibility of managing the Society's projects

Assist, as specified by the Management Sub-committee, with other projects and activities related to the Society

Take the lead in promoting the Society's representation and activities in parts of Kenya outside Nairobi

In liaison with the Hon. Treasurer, ensure that accurate books of account and accounting records are maintained at all times

Assist in preparing annual budgets, financial statements, project proposals and reports as required by the Executive Committee

Ensure that the Society's records and files are properly maintained, and in particular ensure that all computer records are adequately secured and backed up

Ensure that routine correspondence is regularly answered

Oversee the use and maintenance of office equipment

Take overall responsibility for delegated tasks, including purchase of office supplies, stock-taking, maintenance of the membership database and records, licensing and insurance, and administrative liaison with Government authorities

QUALIFICATIONS

We are looking for a responsible, energetic and well-organised Kenyan citizen, with:

* at least a first degree
* a strong and demonstrable interest in natural history
* a clear commitment to conservation and to the Society's goals
* excellent communication and teamwork skills
* good computer literacy
* administrative and project management experience and some basic accounting knowledge

Applications with CV, daytime telephone contact and contact details of two referees (including telephone/fax) should be addressed to:

The Chairman, Nature Kenya, P.O. Box 44486, Nairobi, or email: eanhs@africaonline.co.ke or fax (02) 741049, to arrive not later than 30 April 2000.

hoatzin, Amazon